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To: Examiner Uzma Alam, USPTO
Art Unit 2157

FAX number 1-703-872-9306

From: N. K. Ouchi

Dated May 14, 2007

Ref: 09/974,594

7 Pages plus cover letter

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Examiner Alam

Attached are discussions of the prior art with a copy of the original claims
submitted April 13, 2005

After reading the current submission, may we have a discussion at your
convenience? My phone number is 408-757-5862

Thank you for your assistance.


N. K. Ouchi 5/14/07

MAY 14 2007

Response to USPTO Office Action of 3/22/07

Confirmation Number: 7077

Examiner: Uzma Alam

Art Unit: 2157

Title: File Based Workflow System and Methods

Application Number: 09/974,594

Inventor: Norman Ken Ouchi

Date: May 14, 2007

1) Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Gondo et al (US Pub No 2003/0079186 A1)

2) Application Papers

2.1) Specification is objected by the Examiner box contains "x" but an objection is not specified in the communications.

2.2) The drawings filed on 10/9/01 box contains "x" but neither the accepted nor objected boxes contain an "x" and an objection is not specified in the communications.

The Inventor does not know what is requested by the Examiner and is not responding to these markings.

Action is FINAL

Discussion

Gondo teaches an information collection/proving system which information in classified files attached by users, notifies users, and controls access to files by permissions granted users. Gondo discloses "hardwired" processes for notification of addition and changes to files; and rating and scoring of files. Users of Gondo store and retrieve classified files but are not directed to accomplish a specified process.

Specifically, Gondo does not teach the present invention, "A method for the controlled processing of classified file types" where the process is divided into process steps and the sequence of process steps is represented by a route; where each route step specifies the classification type of a file for an attach or for down load; such that a workflow system presents a screen in response to a route step to download or attach a file of specified classification type as specified by the route step to accomplish the step in the process as directed by the route.

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(Note classified file type and file classification type are used interchangeably in this discussion and not meant to cause confusion.)

The difference between Gondo and the Claim 21 of the present invention as submitted April 13, 2005 are underlined and the discussion by the Inventor is provided in brackets and italics. [*discussion point by Inventor*]. The discussion points are applicable to Claims 28 and 36 as appropriate.

Claim 21 A method for the controlled processing of classified file types wherein a [*Gondo does not teach controlling the processing of files with classified file types. Gondo provides a screen for attaching a file and assigning a classification type and downloading a file of a classification file type but NOT controlled processing of files with classifications based in classification type.*] first file of a first classified file type is processed into a second file of a second classified file type by a plurality of users with access to a route directed workflow system in a computer network comprising the steps of: [*Gondo does not teach the use of a route directed workflow system to control the processing of classified files.*]

dividing the process into a first classified file type attachment step, a first classified file type download step, a step that processes a first classified file type into a second classified file type, a second classified file type attachment step, and a second classified file type download step; [*Gondo does not teach dividing the process into steps where each step specifies a classified file type is attached or a classified file type is downloaded.*]

producing a route with a route step that specifies attachment of a first classified file type by a first user, followed by a route step that specifies the download of a first classified file type by a second user, followed by a route step that specifies the attachment of a second classified file type by the second user, followed by a route step that specifies the download of a second classified file type by a third user; [*Gondo does not teach producing a route from the steps of the process where each step specifies the attach or download function and specifies the file classification type and assigning a user for each step.*]

executing the route in a workflow system directed by the route such that the workflow system in response to a route step presents to the user a screen

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with means to attach or download a classified file type; *[Gondo does not teach executing the route to control, track, and execute the process using a workflow system. Gondo does not teach a workflow system providing a user screen in response to a route step to attach a file with specified file classification type or to download a file with specified file classification type as specified by the route step.]*

such that the first user attaches a first file of the first classified file type;
the second user downloads the first file, processes the first file into a second file
of the second classified file type, and attaches the second file; and
the third user downloads the second file. *[Gondo does not teach how to control the processing of classified files to accomplish a specified process but only provides a screen for the attachment a file and assigning the file classification type and a screen for downloading a file after determining the classified file type.]*

The present invention is significantly different from and not anticipated by Gondo in that the present invention teaches the control the processing of classified files by dividing the process into steps where at each step specifies the attachment or download of a specified classified file type where the file classification type is specified by the workflow step and not the user; producing a route from the steps and assigning a user to each step; executing the route in a workflow system that provides a screen for the user to attach or download the specified file classification type in response to the step in the route, such that the process is accomplished step by step by the users in a controlled manner.

While Gondo teaches a classified attachment screen, Gondo does not teach a workflow step that specifies attachment of a file with specified file classification type. Users of Gondo attach a file and specify the file classification without control and in an ad hoc manner.

While Gondo teaches a classified download screen, Gondo does not teach a workflow step that specifies the download of a file with specified file classification type. Users of Gondo may select files of any classification type to download without control and in an ad hoc manner.

As per Claims 22 and 29, Gondo teaches a screen to attach a file in a parent-child relationship in 0065. However, Gondo does not teach a workflow system providing a screen in response to a route step that specifies a parent-child file attachment that directs the user to attach a file with classification type as specified in a specified parent-child relationship.

As per Claims 23, 31, and 40, Gondo teaches in 0061-0063 that information may be added or reorganized and that users can access modified information. Gondo does not teach how added or reorganized information are categorized or that users can even select information in the "before" state after modifications have been made. Specifically, Gondo does not teach that a first file and a second file have the same name and accessed using the same file name.

As per Claims 24 and 32, Gondo does not teach the use of a workflow with a route so does not provide information to distinguish iterations of a loop. Gondo provides means for users to add or reorganize information but does not teach if the changes are distinguishable among the changes and how these changes are tracked. Gondo has no concept of process flow so cannot teach a "loop" in the process.

As per Claims 25, 33, 34, and 39, Gondo provides means to navigate a file tree to access information related by the tree structure as the parent - child relationship. Selecting a branch in a file tree is not similar to proving a workflow step in which a user can select a branch in a process. Gondo does not teach the use of a route to define the steps of a process nor conditional branch at a route step to select the next route step in the process.

As per Claims 26 and 35, Gondo does teach a screen where a user can download a file. Gondo does not teach a method or system where the workflow system provides a download screen in response to a route step where the user is directed to download a file of the specified file classification type as specified by the route step.

As per Claims 27, 30, 37, and 38, Gondo does teach a screen where the user can download a file in a parent-child relationship. Gondo does not teach a method or system where the workflow system provides a download screen in response to a route step to download a file of a specified classified file type in a specified parent-child relationship.

Claims are grouped 21-27, 28-35, and 36-40 where claims 21, 28, and 36 are independent claims. The Claims are the same as submitted 3/13/05 and no new matter has been added.

The attention and assistance of the examiner is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted

Handwritten signature of Norman Ken Ouchi, dated 5/14/07.

Norman Ken Ouchi, Inventor

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